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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The gingelly crop area in East and West Godavari was above the average in faslis 1333, 1334 and 1335. There was a fall in fasli 1336. The Government understand that this was due, not to special rates for irregular irrigation, for such rates do not vary with the crops, but to an extension of groundnut cultivation. The area under groundnut increased from a normal of 600 acres to 5,181 acres in fasli 1336.

Books and Publications

Alleged search of the Bharathi Pracharalaya by the Police on 19th September 1928.

* 606 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Bharathi Pracharalaya of Triplicane was searched by the City Police on the 19th September 1928, and that the entire stock of Subrahmanya Bharathi's poems, volumes 1 and 2, were seized and taken over ;

(*b*) whether the Government have decided to proscribe Subrahmanya Bharathi's poems, volumes 1 and 2 ;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) be in the affirmative, the grounds for the decision of the Government ;

(*d*) the circumstances under which the Government have taken the action against Subrahmanya Bharathi's poems at this moment, while they have been tolerated by the Government since their publication ;

(*e*) whether the Government are aware of the deep resentment of the people of Tamil Nadu at the action taken by the Government against Subramania Bharathi's poems ;

(*f*) whether it is the object of the Government to put an end to national aspirations in Tamil Nadu by proscribing the poems of Subrahmanya Bharathi ; and

(*g*) whether the Government are aware that the late Mr. Subrahmanya Bharathi is revered by the whole of the Tamil Nadu as a great patriot and poet ?

A.—(*a*) Yes, on the 20th September.
(*b*) No.
(*c*) Does not arise.
(*d*) The Government took no action.
(*e*) This Government have taken no action against these poems.
(*f*) The Government are unaware that such would be the consequences of proscription.
(*g*) Government have no information.

Civil Justice

Vacancies in the Madras High Court Bench.

* 607 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that two vacancies are going to occur in the Madras High Court Bench shortly, and if so, the dates when the vacancies will arise and the nature of the vacancies ;

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(b) whether the local Government have submitted recommendations to fill up the vacancies ; and

(c) whether the Government have recommended or propose to recommend any Muslim for at least one of the said judgeships?

A.—(a) One temporary judge and one permanent judge of the High Court attain 60 years of age on 16th November 1928 and 18th December 1928 respectively.

(b) The local Government make no recommendations for filling up vacancies among permanent judges or temporary additional judges of the High Court.

(c) The question does not arise.

Mr. W. O. Newsam's service as District Judge in Ganjam.

*608 Q.—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) for how long Mr. W. O. Newsam has been acting as District Judge in Ganjam ; and

(b) his service, and experience in all as acting District Judge ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the History of Services of Gazetted and other officers in the Civil Department. A copy of the publication is available in the Council Library.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Alleged withholding of tasdiks to certain temples in South Kanara.

*609 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that in the case of temples in South Kanara with incomes of less than Rs. 250 per annum and in which the trusteeships are vacant the tasdiks payable to them have been held up ;

(b) if so, for what reasons, and how long the Government propose to follow that course and whether the Government have given any instructions as to how the viniyogas in such institutions are to be carried on till the tasdiks are restored to them ; and

(c) whether such temples are still governed by the old committees which have been abolished ?

A.—(a) & (b) The information has been called for.

(c) No. Under section 4 of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926, the provisions of the Act do not apply to temples the average annual gross income of which, including income from endowments connected therewith for a period of five years immediately preceding the commencement of the Act, was less than Rs. 250 each. The temples in question are not therefore under any temple committee at present. The question of placing them under the control of the two new temple committees formed in the district is under consideration.